



August 15, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).

To The Commissioners:


Demand for protein is growing around the world, and high-speed Internet can help Michigan-based livestock businesses better compete in this expanding market. If the Commission concludes that a merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will further progress toward universal mobile broadband coverage, then the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) unequivocally supports approval of that transaction.

Clearly, the status quo will leave Michigan's rural communities and businesses stuck in the past. We must work together and give them the resources and tools they need to grow in the 21st century and play an important role in today's global economy. The goals outlined in the National Broadband Plan will require major private sector investment, and billions of dollars of new capital for building out AT&T's 4G LTE networks are anticipated to result from this deal.

Deployment by these two companies combined will make mobile broadband available to 97 percent of the country, including the vast majority of residents and workers in the rural areas where pork is produced. By merging with T-Mobile, AT&T will reach 55 million people than it could otherwise. With mobile devices essentially replacing desktop and laptop computers, it will take reorganizing the telecommunications industry to get the job done; this merger will set a new benchmark and in due course trigger similar transactions in order to keep its rivals innovating—which will benefit consumers and the overall economy.

Isn't that what we all desire? The FCC knows how critical wireless broadband will be to our country keeping its technological edge, and the economic development that will be driven by it. Unless there is persuasive indications this deal would be disruptive to industry advancement—which is almost unfathomable from our perspective—then we hope you will work to approve this deal in short order so all can begin benefitting from a new standard of mobile broadband coverage within the marketplace.

Sincerely,



Sam Hines
Executive Vice President
Michigan Pork Producers Association

CC:
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Sen. Carl Levin
Sen. Debbie Stabenow